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CHAMPION VEQUIST LEADS 106 NOMINATIONS TO \$1.25 MILLION LONGINES KENTUCKY OAKS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Friday, Feb. 26, 2021) – Champion 2-year-old filly **Vequist**, winner of the \$2 million Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (Grade I), tops the roster of 106 early nominations to the \$1.25 million Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI), North America's premier race for 3-year-old fillies that will be staged at Churchill Downs on Friday, April 30.

Owned in partnership by **Gary Barber, Wachtel Stable** and **Swilcan Stable** and trained by **Butch Reid Jr.**, Vequist was a dominant two-length winner of the Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies. The daughter of Kentucky Derby winner Nyquist is based at Palm Meadows in South Florida and is entered in Saturday's \$200,000 Davona Dale (GII) at Gulfstream Park.

Other top contenders that were nominated to the Longines Kentucky Oaks include **Stonestreet Stables'** \$300,000 Rachel Alexandra Stakes (GII) winner **Clairiere** and **OXO Equine's** runner-up **Travel Column**; **Harold Lerner, Magdalena Racing** and **Nehoc Stables'** \$350,000 Alcibiades (GI) winner **Simply Ravishing**; and **Shadwell Stable's** undefeated **Malathaat**.

Each of the 106 fillies nominated to the Oaks were made eligible by a \$200 payment that was due Feb. 13. A complete list of nominations will be available at <https://www.churchilldowns.com/horsemen/stakes/nominations/>.

Trainer **Todd Pletcher** led all conditioners with nine fillies nominated to the Oaks followed by **Kenny McPeck** who had eight.

Fillies not nominated to the Kentucky Oaks can be made eligible through a \$1,500 late fee due April 10 or a \$25,000 supplemental nomination due at the time of entry. The Oaks field is limited to 14 starters and up to four fillies can be designated as "also-eligible" to start. Eligibility to compete is determined by points amassed during the "Road to the Kentucky Oaks" point series.

Like the May 1 Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve, the Longines Kentucky Oaks has been run each year without interruption since 1875. The lucrative race is the centerpiece of a spectacular day of racing and entertainment at Churchill Downs that celebrates fashion, food, celebrity and fun with a focus on women's health issues and outreach.

GRADE I WINNER DIGITAL AGE (IRE) NOMINATED FOR REPEAT BID IN \$1 MILLION OLD FORESTER BOURBON TURF CLASSIC

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021) – Klaravich Stables' millionaire **Digital Age (IRE)** is nominated to attempt a repeat bid in this year's \$1 million Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic (Grade I) on Saturday, May 1 at Churchill Downs.

The Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic, run at 1 1/8 miles on the Matt Winn Turf Course, annually attracts some of the nation's top turf horses. This year's race has 75 horses that were nominated. Previous winners include 2019 Horse of the Year and Champion Turf Male **Bricks and Mortar**; two-time Horse of the Year **Wise Dan**; and Eclipse Award winners **Manila**, **English Channel**, **Sky Classic** and **Paradise Creek**. **Einstein (BRZ)** a Grade I winner on both dirt and turf, won back-to-back renewals in 2008-09.

Digital Age is one of 17 horses from trainer **Chad Brown**'s stable nominated to the Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic.

Another accomplished turf specialist nominated to this year's race is **Robert** and **Lawana Low**'s \$1 million Pegasus World Cup Turf Invitational (GI) winner **Colonel Liam**. Trained by **Todd Pletcher**, Colonel Liam joined six other stablemates on the nomination list.

In total, 13 Grade I winners were nominated to this year's Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic. The full list of nominations are available at <https://www.churchilldowns.com/horsemen/stakes/nominations/>.

The winner of the March 20 Muniz Memorial Handicap (GII) at Fair Grounds will be granted an automatic berth to the Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic as well as the Arlington Million (GI). The winner of the Old Forester Bourbon Turf Classic also will be granted an automatic berth to the Arlington Million.

Horses nominated to the Old Forester Turf Classic were made eligible by a \$100 payment that was due Feb. 13. Horses not nominated can qualify through a \$1,000 late fee due April 10 or a \$20,000 supplemental nomination due at the time of entry on April 27. The race is limited to 14 starters with preference given to winners of graded turf stakes and, after that, highest earnings in stakes races on turf in 2020-21.

ABOUT CHURCHILL DOWNS RACETRACK

Churchill Downs Racetrack ("CDRT"), the world's most legendary racetrack, has been the home of The Kentucky Derby, the longest continually held annual sporting event in the United States, since 1875. Located in Louisville, CDRT features a series of themed race days during Derby Week, including the Kentucky Oaks, and conducts Thoroughbred horse racing during three race meets in the Spring, September, and the Fall. CDRT is located on 175 acres and has a one-mile dirt track, a 7/8-mile turf track, a stabling area, and provides seating for approximately 60,000 guests. The saddling paddock and the stable area has barns sufficient to accommodate 1,400 horses and a 114-room dormitory for backstretch personnel. CDRT also has a year-round simulcast wagering facility. www.ChurchillDowns.com.

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